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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7833
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TAGS: KMDR OPRC OIIP ETRD BR
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: PRESIDENT BUSH'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT; SAO PAULO

"Bush's Useless Middle East Visit"

Business-oriented daily Valor Economico editorialized (1/18): "President Bush's eight-day visit to the Middle East began with speeches about peace and democracy and ended with the sale of an arms package totaling USD 50 billion.... In his last year in the white House, Bush does not have any power in the Congress and can do little to repair his lack of action and clear support for Israel, which were evident in the past seven years.... New developments towards peace in the region will probably take place after the U.S. elections. The permanence of weak and cornered governments both on the Israeli and Palestinian sides is a major obstacle preventing the negotiations from advancing, not to mention the US's lack of interest in forcing Israel to make concessions."

White